



Information and Privacy
Commissioner/Ontario
Commissaire à l'information
et à la protection de la vie privée/Ontario

News Release Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario today released "HIV/AIDS in the Workplace," a set of privacy principles for employers and employees dealing with the sensitive issue of HIV/AIDS in a workplace setting.

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1987*, the Commissioner's Office's mandate includes ensuring that the privacy of personal information held by government about any individual is adequately protected.

The protection of personal information about HIV/AIDS is critical given society's misconceptions about HIV/AIDS, and the possible consequences for the individual concerned if HIV/AIDS-related personal information is misused.

"HIV/AIDS in the Workplace" recommends privacy principles for employers and employees to follow when dealing with HIV/AIDS-related personal information. It also discusses how HIV/AIDS is transmitted, and explains why HIV/AIDS-related personal information should be treated with utmost confidentiality.

"HIV/AIDS in the Workplace" is primarily intended for ministries, agencies, boards and commissions of the Ontario Government, which are encouraged to adopt the principles as part of their general workplace policies on HIV/AIDS. Companies in the private sector are also encouraged to establish workplace policies on HIV/AIDS. The Canadian business community is invited to make use of the information and principles contained in this report.

Copies of "HIV/AIDS in the Workplace" are available in English and French from Enza Ragone, at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario. Please call (416) 326-3333, or 1-800-387-0073 in Ontario.

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